

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 13 SEPT 49

SUBJECT Military Information on Albania

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DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. Airfields
- 25X1 a. Tirana: This airport is in pre-war condition and has not undergone any enlargement or change.
- 25X1 b. Shkoder: This is a pre-war airport, without any changes. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted] twin-engine and "Dakota" type planes can land here.
- c. Vlone: It is in pre-war condition. In Krionero there is no airfield. The area which had been allocated for it has reportedly been sown with wheat.
- d. Berat: It is rumored that the area allocated for the airfield has been planted in wheat.
- e. Korce: Of the two airfields here, the only one in use is that which is located just outside the city of Korce, on the road from Korce to Laskovik.
- f. Tepelene: There is no airfield here.
2. Port of Vlone
- There is no construction work being done in the area of Posha-Liman Dukati.
3. Island of Sasene
- The modification of existing Italian fortifications on the island has not been verified. It has been verified that there is located on the island one battery of 75/13 (sic) guns, two Italian artillery pieces of 149mm., four 75mm. artillery pieces, and one anti-aircraft battery of unknown caliber.
4. Soviet Army in Albania
- a. Source reports that, with the exception of the Soviet Military Mission, which is concerned with the training and organization of the Albanian

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Army, there is no Soviet Army in Albania. The above Mission includes officers who are specialists in organizing border outposts; it is commanded by a General Sokolovsky (sic) and theoretically does not exceed thirty officers.**

- b. Four Soviet officers are reportedly quartered in Gjinokaster, two of whom were seen on 18 April 1949 in the outlying towns of Sotiran and Kosovice, accompanied by two Albanian officers.***

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- c. [] Soviet military airplanes have not yet been seen in Albania. At the airdrome of Tirana there are two passenger planes used for the transport of official Albanians and foreigners.
- d. The number of Soviets in Albania today does not exceed 2600-3000, consisting of officers, teachers, engineers, specialists, employees, and athletic trainers.

5. Army Barracks in Gjinokaster

- a. These are located in the north quarter of the city and consist of approximately fifty buildings, including stables and automobile garages. Each building is approximately 18 meters long and 9 meters wide and has plenty of water and light. The whole barracks area is surrounded by a thick barbed wire fence which is approximately as high as a man. In the quarter nearest the public road linking Gjinokaster and Tepelene, there are two entrances into the barracks area which are closely guarded day and night. One entrance is for the officers, the other for the enlisted men.
- b. 150 new Chevrolet trucks, made especially for the transport of artillery and shells, are reportedly camouflaged and parked in the northernmost area of the barracks, in the general direction of the town of Yardhillsi (sic).
- c. Three buildings, located in the second row from the northwest area of the barracks, are used to store artillery pieces and mortars of different types and calibers.
- d. There are approximately 15 heavy anti-aircraft artillery pieces in the hills surrounding the barracks. On 28 January 1949 these pieces fired at an airplane of unknown nationality without result. There are foxholes around each anti-aircraft gun.

6. Barracks in the Village of Gjorgucat

Barracks are located in this village on the site of the former market place; inside the barracks a military bakery is in operation. Entrance and movement of civilians is prohibited in this area.

7. Morale of the Albanian Soldiers

- a. No soldier is allowed out of the barracks except on Sunday afternoons, when he has a three-hour pass; social intercourse between soldiers and civilians is prohibited.
- b. The dissatisfaction of the Army is indescribable. Three-fourths of the soldiers are against the Communists and "are not disposed to fight against anybody" who will rise against Hoxha. [] in spite of the reign of terror which exists in the Army, soldiers form groups and discuss their way of life and the conditions in which their families are found, and they wait for their salvation from "the Western democracies and Greece."

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Comment:

Other reports call this Soviet officer Sokolov,
and give him the rank of Colonel.

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